

Applicant: Ani Gonzalez-Rivera
Application Serial No.: 09/971,792
Amendment dated: April 7, 2006
Docket No.: 736-3

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 9, 2005, has been carefully considered. The claims have been amended, as set forth above, in a sincere effort to more clearly define Applicant's invention. When the claims as amended are considered with the Remarks provided hereinbelow, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment, and reconsideration of the application as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7, 11 and 12 as being either anticipated by Tozer U.S. Patent Number 3,566,561 or obvious in view of Tozer '561 alone or further in view of Gonzalez-Rivera U.S. Patent Number 5,803,258. In addition, the Examiner has objected to Claims 8-10 and 13-17 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner has indicated that these objected claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 4 to more clearly define the claimed subject matter of the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the support panel holding slot and arrangement of mounting channels on external surfaces of the support frame. Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly define the fastening means for attaching accessory parts to the support frame.

Claims 3 and 7 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 8 and 14-16 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the originally filed base claim, in order to overcome the Examiner's objection.

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Claims 18-20 have been added to define a method of transporting, displaying and storing an article in accordance with the invention. None of these amendments add new matter.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 3,566,561 to Tozer. However, Tozer does not include a frame having an interior slot for mounting a support panel as well as at least one elongated longitudinal channel on each of at least three external surfaces of the frame wherein each channel includes a pair of legs to partially enclose a portion of the channel accepted for receiving a fastening device as now presented in amended Claim 1. Therefore, in view of the amendments to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 3, and 6, are all patentable over Tozer '561. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tozer '561, alone. However, for the same reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 2, which is dependent upon Claim 1, is patentable over Tozer '561. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 4-5, 11, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tozer '561 in view of Applicant's prior patent, U.S. Patent Number 5,803,258. However, for the same reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-5, 11, and 12 which are dependent on Claim 1, are patentable over Tozer '561 and Gonzalez-Rivera '258. As discussed with respect to Tozer

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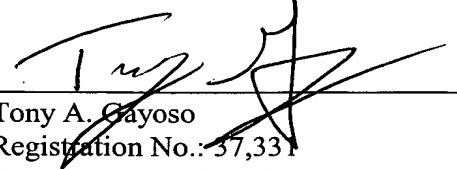
'561 above, Gonzalez-Rivera '258 does not include the specific structure of the support frame as now presented in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Additionally, Claim 13 was objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 depends upon Claim 1 and is patentable for the same reasons set forth above.

By this Amendment, Applicant has added new Claims 18-20 to define a method of handling, displaying and storing a work of art in accordance with the invention. These claims are presented to more fully cover the scope of Applicant's invention. None of the references, taken along or in combination, teach the claimed method using a support frame and support panel as defined therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments, and remarks set forth above, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions of possible amendment for allowance, she is cordially invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


Tony A. Gayoso
Registration No.: 37,331
Attorney for Applicant

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
350 Jericho Turnpike
Jericho, New York 11791-4407
(516) 822-3550